(c) whether the representatives of Industry have represented to Central Government to take over Sick Industrial Units or to amalgamate or to hand them over to big industries to run them; and

(d) whether any other plan has been chalked out to make these sick industrial units viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The total amount of credit locked up in various sick industrial units upto June, 1958 as per the latest data furnished by the Reserve Bank of India is Rs. 3805.17 crores.

(b) The data on sick industrial units assisted by banks are collected by Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to this data available upto June, 1985 the total number of sick units is 99,668.

(c) Representations for taking over or amalgamating sick units with big industries are received from time to time, and these are considered in accordance with the policy guidelines, issued in this regard.

(d) Recently 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, has also been enacted which, *inter-alia*, provides for timely detection of sick and potentially sick industrial units and for establishment of a quasi-judicial body to be designated as the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, for speedy rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industrial units.

Cases and petitions admitted in High Courts

1845. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases and writ petitions admitted in each High Court during the last three years year-wise;

(b) how many cases have been decided in each High Court per year during the above period;

(c) what had been the average rate of disposal in each High Court per judge during three years, year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to dispose of cases/petitions quickly in each High Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Information as furnished by the Registries of High Courts is given in the attached Annexure [See Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 71]

(d) Steps taken to reduce pendency are given in the attached Statement.

.. .. **Statement** ..

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency:

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts:—

1. Elimination of arrears in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September, 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Government.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (*vide* Section 100-A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The Sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 434 as on 1st November, 1986.

5. Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:—

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts;

(b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

(c) Dispensing with printing of records;

(d) Expediting and giving priority to matter under certain Acts.

6. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and the High Courts, these have been sent to them alongwith the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are:—

(I) the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by:

(i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

(ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;

(iii) establishing other tries or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(II) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishments and working;

(III) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the forums envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii);

(IV) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary;

(V) the training of Judicial Officers;

(VI) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice;

(VII) the desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings;

(VIII) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants;

(IX) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(X) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purpose aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Profit and loss in EPI

1846. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineering Projects (India) Limited is still running into losses;

(b) if so, what are the details of profits and losses during the last three years; and

(c) what are the reasons of losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Net losses incurred by the company during the last three years are:—

	(Rs. in crores)
1983-84	31.42
1984-85	14.98
1985-86	34.43

(c) Losses incurred by the Company have been primarily on two overseas projects viz. Al-Fridous Housing Project, Kuwait and Council of Ministers Building Project, Iraq mainly due to heavy escalation in prices during implementation of the projects, rigid attitude of the clients in the matter of acceptance of works and settlement of claims heavy interest burden and guarantee charges and onset of conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Research and Development Centres to reduce technology import

1847. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1216 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1985 and state:

(a) how many research and development centres to reduce technology import have been set up in the country; and

(b) what are the details of financial assistance given to these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government is operating a scheme to grant recognition to in-house R&D Units in order to encourage research & development in industry. According to the latest Directory of Recognised In-house R&D Units, brought out in February, 1985 by Ministry of Science & Technology, 877 R&D units have been recognised.

(b) No direct financial assistance is offered by Government to recognised R&D units. However, such units take advantage of the tax concessions and other facilities offered by Government from time to time.

Special leave petitions in Supreme Court

1848. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Special Leave petitions have been admitted in the Supreme Court during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how many are presently pending before the court for disposal;